

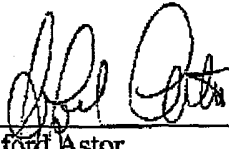
REMARKS

Applicants hereby withdraw the statement concerning the teaching of the JP '161 reference and claim 11 (i.e. the third paragraph on the second page of the "Remarks" section of the Amendment). JP '161 discloses in paragraph [0051] that...sulfur and a vulcanizing accelerator are kneaded with open rolls set at a temperature of 80° C. With regard to claim 11, Applicants had stated that the JP '161 patent teaches a vulcanization temperature of 160° C, whereas Applicants require a temperature of 120° C or less. This statement is not accurate.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AUG 26 2003
TC 1700

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